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The Alabamian

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Thursday, February 25, 2016

Trustees reach controversial decision on gender expression protection

By REED STRENGTH



The Merrill Room in Reynolds hall was packed full of concerned students, faculty and community members awaiting the Board's decision.

On Friday, Feb. 13, the UM Board of Trustees approved an addition to University policy that further extends the protection of students and faculty from same sex and gender-based harassment and discrimination.

This addition extends policy protection to include "sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and genetic information."

However, additional language proposed by Trustee Caroline Aderholt was also approved. This additional language states the University will "not take any discriminatory action against a person, group or organization based wholly or partially" on a person's "perceived or actual religious beliefs about marriage, gender and/or sexuality."

This extension is set to be

included in policy 01:100: Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action and policy 01:120: Bias-Related Acts of Violence, Intimidation, Harassment and/or Discrimination.

At the board meeting, a mixed crowd of students, faculty and community members gathered in the Reynolds Merrill room in attendance.

In a 4-3 vote, the board approved the Aderholt enhanced version of the policy change. Though the policy was approved, it will not go into effect until the board votes on an implementation plan to go along with the policy changes in their August meeting.

Currently, the religious and marriage beliefs language is being reviewed by a legal team and the University administration. Meanwhile, organizations like the

Faculty Senate, Student Government association and Safe Zone will work together with a Trustee to create an appropriate implementation plan.

Despite the passing, the Safe Zone committee was critical of the "unfortunate language" added to their approved change. "It is our hope and advocacy that the qualifying language not become part of the University policy," said the Safe Zone committee in a statement emailed to friends and supporters. The committee stated the controversial addition "may serve to undermine the intent of the policy updates regarding sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression."

Safe Zone is not the only organization on campus with criticism. "From the students we've talked to, the additive language is

definitely a sore spot," said SGA President Jacob Gordon. "However, the original language was in, and that's something of itself."

Gordon said SGA will continue to work with Safe Zone and the Faculty Senate to find an appropriate implementation plan, but it will ultimately be up to next semester's SGA to continue any substantive legislation.

Board of Trustees Chairman and Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange predicted that implementing the changes will be a "no-brainer" come August.

He said the community interest in the issue left a palpable impression on the meeting. "It makes a difference. It speaks volumes. You express what you feel by your presence, by your dollars but time is very precious," Strange said.

NEWS in BRIEF

By GEORDIE KENNEDY

Two West Alabama Men were arrested on Tuesday, Feb. 16 concerning a 200 gallon moonshine still in Marengo County. According to AL.com, Reginald Williams, age 57, and William Walters III, age 49, were brought into custody by the State Bureau of Investigation on charges of possession of a still for manufacturing of prohibited liquors as well as a count of possession of illegally produced alcoholic beverages. The investigation is still ongoing.

The Alabama House of Representatives has passed a Republican-backed bill blocking the increase of the minimum wage for Alabama workers. WHNT.com reports the 71-31 vote rolls back Birmingham's plan to increase minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour and instead will retain the \$7.25 federal wages currently in place for all Alabama cities. The bill is presently on its way to the Alabama Senate.

Apple has publicly contested a US magistrate's order to unlock the iPhone of San Bernardino shooter Syed Rizwan Farook, responsible for the death of 14 on Dec. 2, 2015. According to NPR, the FBI's investigation has been unsuccessful regarding the shooter's phone, prompting this order. Apple CEO Tim Cook has refused with regards to customer privacy. The conflict has not yet been resolved.

On Friday, Feb. 19, bestselling author Harper Lee died at the age of 89. Best known for her southern classic "To Kill a Mockingbird," Lee passed away in her home town of Monroeville, Alabama. Lee will forever be remembered for her intelligent portrayals of segregation era southern life and witty but poignant humor. The Pulitzer Prize winner has inspired generations of authors with her works and will be dearly missed.

UM students set to fight for higher education in Montgomery

By JAMIE HAAS

Feb. 25, 2016 marks the latest iteration of a massive advocacy event for College students known as Higher Ed Day.

These student representatives from public universities across Alabama gather on the capitol steps in Montgomery to discuss with legislators the perceived inadequacies of the state budget for higher education.

Put together by the Higher Education Day Partnership, a Montgomery-based lobbying group, the purpose of Higher Ed Day is for students to call attention to the economic impact higher education has on the state, a point used to advocate for a more equitable division of the Education Trust Fund (ETF).

The ultimate goal of these civically-engaged activists is a one-third to two-thirds split of the ETF, with the latter going towards K-12 education and the former being used to fund higher

education. As it stands now, universities receive about 27 percent of the available funding, a percentage that some find frustrating, especially when coupled with the fact that for every one dollar invested in higher education the state receives a 12.5 billion dollar economic impact.

According to UM's Higher Ed Day coordinator Lillie Childers, while the redistribution of funds may appear to be only a benefit to the state, it boils down to an issue of rationale.

"The legislature still takes money out of the trust fund to balance the general fund, and that's been a consistent trend over the past ten years," Childers said, "It's hard for the state to justify increasing funding when [universities] can get those dollars elsewhere."

Childers further emphasized the importance of student turnout to the rally as well.

"The event itself is during the legislative session when [the legislators] are going to be discuss-

ing the budget, so it's to let them know that students are cognizant of the issues," Childers said.

There are currently about 50 UM students signed up to attend, but the goal for overall attendance is 100. Students who wish to take

part in the rally are encouraged to meet in the New Res parking lot no later than 7:45 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 25. Breakfast and lunch will be provided, as well as a free t-shirt to all that participate.



Photo courtesy of Abigail Bradley

UM students rallied in Montgomery during the 2013 Higher Ed Day. So far, 50 students have signed up to attend this year's event.

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Beyond history: why black lives matter

By JASMYNE RAY

It wasn’t until my first year of college that I started realizing the importance of Black History Month. Sure, it made for a funny tongue-in-cheek Saturday Night Live short, but it’s so much more than that. It’s a time to celebrate the achievements of African Americans, look back on how far we’ve come as a race and plan for the future.

In elementary school, the entire month was centered around the Civil Rights Movement. Growing up in Montgomery, Alabama, the heart of the movement, made everything all the more real. As a child I felt a certain amount of pride knowing that I’d grown up in a place rich with history. In middle school we started learning about the Harlem Renaissance and the contributions African

Americans made to the arts.

In February of 2012, Trayvon Martin was shot. I was a sophomore in highschool at the time and had a hard time coming to terms with it. A kid innocently goes out to buy Skittles and an Arizona drink and ends up getting shot because he was considered a threat. People protested, blacked out their profile pictures on social media, wore hoodies in remembrance. There was a huge media fanfare from start to finish. Nevertheless, after George Zimmerman was found not guilty, everything died down. The only thing that survived was a hashtag: #BlackLivesMatter.

Black Lives Matter has grown from a hashtag into a movement within itself. It was there when Mike Brown was shot while his hands were up. It was a rallying

cry when Eric Garner died on a New York street from being held down by police officers. When you say that Black Lives Matter, it doesn’t mean that others don’t. It’s simply speaking out against the injustice facing African Americans and the probabilities that their lives are not seen as valuable.

The founders of the movement have been quoted saying the following: “#BlackLivesMatter doesn’t mean your life isn’t important—it means that Black lives, which are seen as without value within White supremacy, are important to your liberation. Given the disproportionate impact state violence has on Black lives, we understand that when Black people in this country get free, the benefits will be wide reaching and transformative for society as a whole.”

Earlier this month, Beyonce released a music video for her new song, “Formation”, where she proceeded to astound people by proudly embracing and displaying her blackness. From the camera panning across graffiti reading “stop shooting us”, highlighting multiple aspects of black (particularly southern) culture, to having a child dancing in a black hoodie in front of SWAT officers with their hands up, the entire video screams Black Lives Matter proudly. The next day, at the Super Bowl halftime performance, she and her dancers performed the song dressed like Black Panthers.

A week later, Kendrick Lamar used his Grammy performance of “Alright” to make a statement about the incarceration of black men. According to the National Association for the Advancement

of Colored People (NAACP), African Americans are jailed almost six times as much as whites. It was a performance that America was forced and needed to watch. Lamar walked on stage in with chains attached to his handcuffs and a black eye painted on his face. “February 26, I lost my life too,” he rapped, referencing the day Martin was shot.

Two separate, but similar, occasions where the country has been forced to acknowledge injustice, to the discomfort of some. Both were needed and are steps in the right direction. As the month draws to a close, I feel two things: a beautiful shift in music tackling not just the Black Lives Matter movement, but all social injustice issues and a resurgence in pride for my race and the struggle that is not yet over.



Beyoncé’s controversial Super Bowl performance marks a significant shift in the building cultural conversation about race.

Photo courtesy of Arnie Papp

The trouble with ‘racial awareness’ on campus

By BRENDAN O’NEIL
Los Angeles Times

When I was at university in London in the early 1990s, Michael Jackson’s mega-hit “Black or White” was forever blaring in the student bar. As we drank our flat beers, we’d sing along: “It don’t matter if you’re black or white.” On American campuses, that statement might now be perceived as a so-called microaggression.

Recently I visited USC and the University of California at Irvine. The students I met saw themselves and their classmates as colors more than characters. They obsessed over the historical baggage their pigmentation allegedly brought with it.

“As a white man” _ that’s how one USC student started almost every sentence. As a white man he has privilege, suffers from ignorance and requires sensitivity instruction.

At Irvine, a black student told me that “white students and white faculty” lack knowledge of the black experience and require education to remedy that problem. I heard a white female student talk about the “privilege of paleness.”

Many shared the view that interaction between the races is all but impossible without the guiding hand of race experts. A white student at UC Irvine told me that his school’s efforts to “ensure a positive climate” for black students isn’t enough: they need seminars on racial understanding to allow white students to better understand black students _ “and possibly vice versa,” he added, cautiously.

I found it all deeply dispiriting. “Racial understanding” sounds nice; it’s always good to be understanding, right? Yet the logic of it strikes me as dire. It rehabilitates, in politically correct lingo, the belief that skin color is more important than what lies beneath.

Indeed, some university administrators now actively encourage their students to be color-conscious rather than colorblind.

A University of California document titled “Recognizing Microaggressions” lists various potentially offensive phrases that students and faculty should avoid using. It includes: “When I look at you, I don’t see color;” “There is only one race: the human race;” and “I don’t believe in race.”

It goes on to say that “color-blindness,” a refusal to “acknowledge race,” is about “denying the individual as a racial/cultural being.” I thought that was precisely the aim of the liberal project: to deny that individuals are “racial beings,” and in fact to fight against such a foul idea. What happened to the truism that race is a construct? Having gone through my life refusing to treat people as “racial beings,” must I now change tack, and think racially, if I want to be seen as good?

California’s hardly alone in this. At the University of Missouri, staff have been encouraged to see colorblindness as “disempowering for people whose racial identity is an important part of who they are.”

The new racial imagination is reaching its nadir with demands for minority-only or minority-specific spaces.

At Oberlin College, students want rooms across campus “designated as a safe space for Africana identifying students. Afrikan Heritage House should not be the only space allotted for the promotion and acknowledge-

ment of our community specifics needs.” At New York University, students are calling for “an entire floor of the mixed use building in the Southern Subblock plan (to) be dedicated to students of color.” At UCLA, the Afrikan Student Union claims that “black students lack spaces where they feel safe and comfortable.” The solution? An “Afrikan Diaspora floor” branded as “a safe space for all black students.” I guess if you put the word “safe” in front of “segregation,” it’s suddenly all right?

This is what the politics of identity has wrought. As we’re implored to define ourselves by our race, gender, sexuality or some other given trait over which we have little control, we become separated from one another. Some will say I can afford to be colorblind because I’m a white man. I don’t experience racialized hardship, so it’s easy for me to say: “Race doesn’t matter.” But challenging racial thinking doesn’t mean denying the reality of racism.

Ultimately I find these new campus movements profoundly pessimistic. They’ve accepted the reactionary view that it’s not only

possible but desirable to categorize people by color and _ as a corollary _ that genuine integration is futile. Excuse me for wanting no part in it.

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Letter to the editor

The people of the University of Montevallo have been, in my experience, very open and accepting to students of varying sexual orientations and gender identities.

I have met many people who are transgender, agender, demi-gender, and genderfluid. These identities are a large part of the queer communities across the world.

One thing I have noticed, sadly, is that many facilities, such as the classrooms and dorms, are still controlled by the binary.

As a person who is outside of

the binary, I sometimes will feel uncomfortable as I enter the “Women’s” restroom in between classes.

I am quite certain that I am not the only student who has dealt with a feeling of dysphoria as they entered a restroom marked by the binary.

As this issue has come to light across the world, many offices and schools have removed gendered bathrooms in favor of genderless, single use restrooms. Now this would be fairly expensive, so I believe the best solution would be an all gender

bathroom.

This can make some people uncomfortable, as the majority identifies as either male or female. Some students could feel uncomfortable with using the restroom beside someone of a different gender.

This is also the way things have been done for years, and many don’t want to change the way things are.

The main reason I push for the adjustment of campus restrooms is gender dysphoria. This is a feeling of anxiety, dissatisfaction, or depression due to one not identifying with the gender they physically are.

This can lead to severe issues with school, work, or other social activities. 71 percent of people with gender dysphoria will also develop mental health problems, such as disorders, substance abuse, and suicidal tendencies.

This is not only useful for those of different gender identities, but also for parents who must take a child of a different gender to the restroom. Several colleges, such as the University of Colorado have already begun this as a way of accepting the growing community of LGBTQ+ students.

I feel that the buildings that should serve as a test area should be either Palmer Auditorium, or Anna Irvin Dining Hall, as these places receive the most traffic.

All gender bathrooms can have floor to ceiling stalls, with a common area for sinks.

The exact cost for this has not been established, however, I believe the University along with the LGBTQ+ community can raise the funds to complete this.

Sincerely,
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Apple-FBI fight intensifies over San Bernardino gunman’s iPhone

By SEAN COCKERHAM MCCLATCHY
Washington Bureau

The court dispute between Apple and the Justice Department over unlocking the San Bernardino, Calif., gunman’ iPhone became a public relations war Monday, with the FBI and Apple exchanging words on the Internet and Congress preparing to intervene.

For now, the FBI appears to be winning the battle, at least according to new polling from the Pew Research Center. But privacy advocates who support Apple plan rallies across the nation Tuesday, including one in front of the FBI’s headquarters in Washington.

Pew’s poll of more than 1,000 Americans found that just 38 percent support Apple’s refusal to help the FBI unlock the iPhone of Syed Farook, who with his wife killed 14 people in the San Bernardino attack in December.

Fifty-one percent of those surveyed between Feb. 18 and Feb. 21 said Apple should unlock the phone. The other 11 percent were unsure.

Apple posted a statement to its customers on its website Monday, offering the company’s justification for challenging a court order demanding that Apple create a software to open the phone.

Apple said it would set a dangerous legal precedent and expand government surveillance powers.

“Law enforcement agents around the country have already said they have hundreds of iPhones they want Apple to unlock if the FBI wins this case,” the statement said. “In the physical world, it would be the equivalent of a master key, capable of opening hundreds of millions of locks.”

That statement came after FBI Director James Comey, in an unusual online commentary posted just before midnight Sunday, said, “I hope folks will take a deep breath and stop saying the world is ending.”

“We simply want the chance, with a search warrant, to try to guess the terrorist’s passcode without the phone essentially self-destructing and without it taking a decade to guess correctly,” Comey wrote. “That’s it. We don’t want to break anyone’s encryption or set a master key loose on the land.”

That assertion seemed open to question. Last week, New York District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. said his office has 175 iPhones it wants Apple to unlock in criminal cases.

Others in law enforcement around the country have also spoken of pursuing decryption of phones in criminal cases, signaling that Apple’s defeat in the case would spark a broader effort to get the company to open more phones.

Apple called on the government Monday to drop the court case in favor of a congressional “commission or other panel of experts on intelligence, technology, and civil liberties to discuss the implications for law enforcement, national security, privacy, and personal freedoms.”

“Apple would gladly participate in such an effort,” the company said.

Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., and Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas, are expected to introduce a bill this week to create a commission. Other lawmakers want to go further, though, with Sens. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., , and Richard Burr, R-N.C., working on a bill to force tech companies to assist law enforcement with decryption when there is a court order.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee has invited Apple and the FBI to testify and “share their side of the story with the American people.”

A lawyer representing some of the victims and their families from the San Bernardino shootings said Monday that he will file a legal brief supporting the FBI in the case in hopes of getting more information about the attack and why those killed and wounded were targeted.

Apple CEO Tim Cook sent a letter to employees saying that “over the past week I’ve received messages from thousands of people in all 50 states, and the overwhelming majority are writing to voice their strong support.”

The Pew poll showing that a majority of Americans want Apple to unlock Farook’s phone raises the question of whether the company could suffer a business backlash. John Feland, CEO of Argus Insights, a research company that specializes in smartphone marketing, said he doesn’t think so.

“The U.S. market has become less and less important for Apple over the last few years,” Feland said.

Even in the U.S., where Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump called for a boycott of Apple products, Feland said he expects that over the long term it won’t be a problem for the company.

Cracking the iPhone password

A judge has ordered Apple to assist law enforcement in decrypting the phone of one of the San Bernardino shooters. The court order requires Apple to:

- Disable the feature that deletes the phone’s contents after 10 failed passcode attempts
- Allow the FBI to input passcodes electronically
- Remove any intentional delays in passcode input

These changes would make it possible for the FBI to “brute force” the password by inputting every possible passcode with the help of software.

Currently, it takes a minimum of 80 milliseconds for an iPhone running iOS 9 to process the input of one passcode, according to Apple. Assuming the passcode in question uses only numbers, here’s a look at how long it would take to try every possible combination with Apple’s 80 millisecond delay, and without it, assuming 10 million password attempts per second as is possible with commercially available software.

Numeric	With delay	Without
4 digits 10,000 combinations	13 minutes	1 milliseconds
6 digits 1 million combinations	22 hours	100 milliseconds

Due to the larger number of characters to choose from, a password using numbers, letters and symbols would take longer to crack.

Alphanumeric		
4 characters 1.9 billion combinations	4.9 years	3 minutes
6 characters 85.5 trillion combinations	217,570 years	99 days

Source: Court documents, Apple, ElcomSoft

Graphic: Tribune News Service

Men’s basketball surges to the top of the conference

By ALEX TEJADA

So far this season, the Falcons have only had two slip-ups in conference play. They’ve shaken it off and managed to look menacing behind the scoring of Terrell Lipkins and rebounding of Bryant Orange.

On Feb. 6, The Falcons lost against conference bottom North Georgia in a head-scratching 90-91 game where Montevallo led for the majority of the game.

The Falcons showed the loss was only a bad day at the office when they recovered four days later to take down conference leaders Columbus State on Feb. 10

They cemented their lead at the top of the Peach Belt on Saturday with another

home win against Clayton State on Friday, Feb. 13. Malik Field’s late free throws ended up being the difference in the 71-69 contest.

On Feb. 17, Columbus State got revenge with a buzzer beating shot to trump the Falcons 69-68.

On Senior Night, Lipkins and Orange were honored and both had fantastic games, scoring 28 and 29 points. Malik Fields and Tevin Worthy were the other two seniors playing in their final regular season home game. These seniors helped their team to a 98-87 win against Flagler.

The current form that the Falcons have been displaying has made them favorites in the Peach Belt Tournament, which starts at the end of the month on Feb. 27.



Bryant Orange goes for a shot during the Falcons game against the Columbus State.

Photo courtesy of Montevallo Athletics

Women’s lacrosse starts strong during inaugural season

By ALEX TEJADA



The inaugural Women's Lacrosse team stands together proudly on the field during their historic first match against Point University.

Photo courtesy of Amber Quinn | University Relations

Head Women’s Field Lacrosse Coach Frank Rogers is taking charge of his third inaugural women’s lacrosse program after doing so successfully in Michigan and North Carolina. Rogers managed to whip up a 19-player squad in a matter of months. A feat that looked even more impressive considering the cohesiveness shown in their 12-8 debut victory over Point University.

The Falcons have looked deadly in attack behind Maddie Ellis and Jami Hudak. Transfer Maddie Ellis played under Rogers at Brevard College and has had 20 goals so far this season. Hudak is a true freshman from New York who increased her goal tally in

each of the three games in the young season to a total of 18.

Irfana Ahmed from Texas is the Falcons’ undisputed number one goalkeeper and has been called upon to make 58 saves this season. Highly recruited freshman Jess Culver has added five goals to her growing reputation in midfield. The MVP on both her club and high school teams, the Kansas City native looks more comfortable with each game, her cradling and combination play a key asset for the Falcons.

The only two non-freshman besides Ellis have also looked promising. Sophomore Lauren Duckworth and junior Lexie Wright have scored 8 and 6 goals

respectively. Duckworth is a key figure in the midfield, and controls a lot of the ball. A fair amount of the Falcons’ possession going forward has been created by Duckworth who has been at the center of Lara Schuetz and Samantha Farrell. Both Schuetz and Farrell have found the back of the net this season and hopefully their offensive contributions can continue to provide a spark in the midfield.

Montevallo’s opener was a special occasion for the university and the team responded to the good atmosphere by taking down Point University 12-8 on the chilly night of Friday Feb. 5.

Five days later on Feb.10,

Montevallo suffered their first loss against University of Alabama Huntsville with a score of 7-17. The game was a tale of two halves for the Falcons, as they responded in the second half to a huge deficit.

The next game on Feb. 13 was the absolute opposite, as Montevallo started with a fantastic first half before a second half rally by Reinhardt was enough for the Eagles’ to leave the field with a 18-15 win.

Recently, Montevallo won both of their games in Shawnee, Oklahoma. The first game of the doubleheader on Feb. 20 resulted in a 20-3 victory over St. Mary’s College. Ellis led the team with 6

goals and Hudak added 5 goals.

The second game was an overtime thriller against Oklahoma Baptist in which Jess Culver netted the winning goal for the Falcons. The Falcons won 18-17 and Ellis had another fantastic day by scoring 4 goals.

This weekend, the Falcons take on Shorter on Feb. 27. and will close the month out against Ursuline in Huntsville on Feb. 29.

Despite the early losses, the Falcons have looked better with the passing of each game as the players gain more experience. The expertise of Coach Frank Rogers, coupled with the attacking play of Ellis and Hudak could see the Falcons soaring with high expectations as the season progresses.

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UM student set to present research at Kami-Con

By DANIELLE STALLWORTH

For Zac Clifton, a senior majoring in English, what began as a school assignment has blossomed into a unique opportunity to share his research with an audience outside of the classroom. Clifton will be presenting his research paper this March at Kami-Con, an annual three-day convention held at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex (BJCC) that celebrates Japanese culture, cosplay, anime and manga.

"I've only been to one con, but I got the idea by watching some of the other panels they had there and I thought, 'I could do this,'" said Clifton. "So I just submitted a little abstract to them, and they were like 'Yes! We'll take you!'"

Clifton's presentation began as an honors thesis that he wrote last semester on yaoi, a specific type of manga written by female authors for mainly female readers in Japan. It focuses on romantic and sexual relationships between male characters.

"The thing that really in-

terested me was the amount of sexual violence that happens within these mangas," Clifton said. "Particularly with it being female-based. It's concerning how it gets transmitted over here into western media and how that gets conflated with gay identity."

Dr. Alexander Beringer, Clifton's advisor, said that Clifton's research is innovative because American readers don't always know how to react to themes in yaoi that are specific to Japanese context.

"I'm especially impressed by how his work illustrates the changes in readership for manga as these materials travel from Japan to the United States," Beringer said. "These questions about cross-cultural reception will only become more pressing as the role of manga continues to grow in the U.S."

The process of writing this paper was challenging for Clifton. Beringer suggested several books for him to read over the summer. He utilized not only manga, but books on different theoretical perspectives.

Clifton knew that he wanted



Zac Clifton utilized a variety of mangas and research books in his paper

Danielle Stallworth | The Alabamian

to write a longer paper, which is not typical for an undergraduate class.

"I decided the easiest way was to break it down into sections," Clifton said. "I pretended I was writing mini essays, and I combined them."

He also let students in the Harbert Writing Center read his work to help him decide how to organize it and edit it. All of this resulted in a 26 page paper titled "(YA)ru, (O)kasu, (I)kaseru: Do Him, Rape Him, Make Him Rape, Loss, and Silence of Queer Identity in Boys Love Manga."

Clifton said that he may extend his research in the future and even seeks to get his paper published. He is excited to give a presentation in a less academic environment but is a bit nervous to see how fans will respond to criticisms of the yaoi genre.

"I don't want anyone to feel like I'm shaming them for something they enjoy," he said. "I think yaoi does really good things for some people. I think it does so at the expense of other issues that need to be addressed."

Some of the content of Clifton's paper deals with fan respons-

es to the sexual violence in yaoi, and one of his main goals was to see how fans of the genre would react to his research.

"I thought it would be a good opportunity to present at a convention and see just sort of what feedback I get from the fans," said Clifton. "That could not only help my research but potentially shape it in a different way. So hopefully I will not be attacked."

Kami-Con will take place March 11-13 at the BJCC in downtown Birmingham.

Review: The Choice

By ALLI PATTON

When I hear the name Nicholas Sparks, images of tear jerking, ovary-exploding, will-he-get-the-girl love scenes flash across my mind. For years, Sparks has made a household name for himself when it comes to romance and well, creating "sparks." Whether it is on page or the silver screen, this man knows the way to audiences' feels.

The recent film adaptation of his book, "The Choice," a tale of the trials and tribulations of being

neighbors in love (you know... the usual), did not quite ignite like classics, "The Notebook" or "A Walk to Remember." Instead, "The Choice" fizzled to a dull ember.

Between the cheesy, almost uneducated, Southern draws and the unbearably awkward, uncomfortable silences, it's safe to say this movie does not live up to its hype. The lack of chemistry between main characters and the stiff, artless dialogue made it cringe-y at best. The passionate love between them was more

like an acquaintanceship. The storyline was dodgy and carelessly pieced together, with an inaccurate timeline and numerous plot holes, presenting this viewer with a lot of "huh?" moments.

To say the film is all bad would be unfair. I found myself hiding a smile at times due to the witty banter and boyish antics from male lead Travis Shaw played by Benjamin Walker, who, despite his phony accent, still manages to ooze charm. The setting on the Carolina coastline wasn't too shabby either.

But despite the heartfelt moments when the actors decide to break the robot facade of just going through the motions, they never manage to make up for it in the end. "The Choice" is a flop with its lack of detail, development and believability. The characters are flat and false.

I struggled through it so you readers don't have to. You're welcome. My advice to prospective movie-goers would be to maybe avoid this one until its Redbox release. Go spend your money on "Deadpool," "Dirty Grandpa," or the boneless wings at B-Dubs.

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PLAYLIST

THROWBACK THURSDAY

"Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)" - Green Day

This song is everything you need it to be. A pick me up, a break up song or even a commencement song, "Good Riddance..." proves its timelessness each time you hear the opening strums of Billie Joe Armstrong's guitar.

"Kiss Me" - Sixpence None the Richer

This song is the auditory equivalent of feeling fine on an autumn day. It's the sound Honey Bunches of Oats would emit if they reacted to milk in the same way as Rice Krispies. No but seriously, that chorus is a sticky acoustic trap of pure nostalgia.

"Bye Bye Bye" - NSYNC

No matter what side of the NSYNC-Backstreet Boys divide you found yourself on, you can't help but sing along to this catchy throwback. With its relatable theme of a breakup gone bad and a chorus that'll be stuck in your head for hours, this track commands the attention of all who give it a listen.

"Every Other Time" - LFO

This song's relentless stupidity can be ignored in favor of searching for this treasure trove of a lyric: "Sometimes we swim around/just like two dolphins in the ocean of our hearts." Rad, am I right?

"Lose Yourself" - Eminem

If you had one song or one hit jam from the early aughties to sum up everything you ever loved about hip-hop, in one playlist, would you rock out to it or just let it skip?

"Ignition (Remix)" - R. Kelly

This is quite possibly one of the smoothest slices of pop song to ever sidle on up close to the radio. It was also quite possibly one of the first songs your parents chided you for singing out loud.

"Jesus Walks" by Kanye West

"Jesus Walks" was one of West's first masterpieces as he got out of his producer chair and stepped into the booth as a rapper. It was praised for the way it discussed religion and was even

classified as a gospel song by the New York Times.

"1985" - Bowling For Soup

Originally recorded by rock band SR-71, "1985" wasn't popularized until Bowling For Soup's cover weaseled its way into our ears and hearts in 2004. While it never topped any charts, the fact remains that the song is a staple for any throwback playlist.

"Vertigo" - U2

This rare U2 banger was the poster song for a fancy new music service in the early 2000's: iTunes. What could be more worthy of a Throwback Thursday than that?

"Year 3000" - Jonas Brothers

Even though the Jonas Brothers have gone their separate ways in the music industry, this song for some reason was a hit that brushed up against everyone's inner popstar. Whether you were in middle school, a Disney dork, a Nickelodeon nerd or absolutely hated the fact that they even existed as a band, this funky beat will still pull you right back to that mid-2000's summer.



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Technology help desk moves to Carmichael

By REED STRENGTH

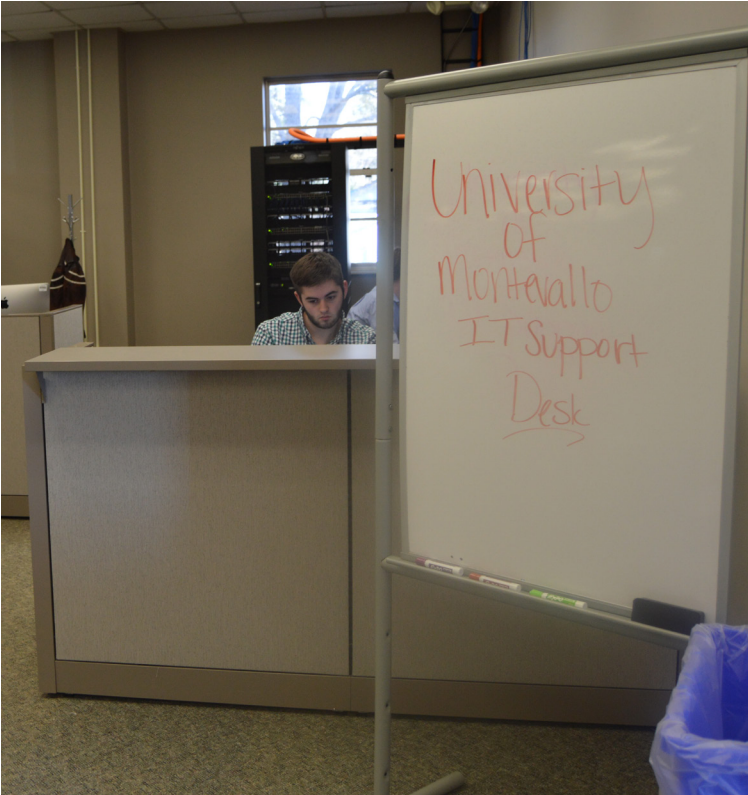
On Monday, Feb. 15, the new UM Technology Services help desk opened its new location in Carmichael hall. Dubbed the Solution Center, the desk is located on the bottom floor of Carmichael across from the recently added Starbucks kiosk.

Previously, students with technology issues would need to venture to the second floor of Morgan Hall.

According to Help Desk Technician Channing Donaldson, the center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Technicians like Donaldson are available to answer any questions about a variety of technology topics, from FalconNet troubleshooting to hardware issues. There will be four Ellucian employees on call with three additional student workers.

Additionally, help requests can be made by calling (205)-665-6512 or emailing SolutionCenter@montevallo.edu. Emailing the center with a problem, phone number and location will begin a formal help request ticket.

In addition to tech services help, the Photo ID lab in Main Hall has also made a transition to



UM Students and faculty can seek technology help at the new Solution Center in Carmichael Library Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

the center. Ellucian employees are able to take all photo ID requests during normal business hours. Photo Lab Technician Amy George will be available from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

“...It is our sincerest desire to

change the face of technology support and help the students, faculty and staff of Montevallo,” wrote Information Technology Officer Craig Gray in an email announcing the center’s soft open.

Film club shooting for the silver screen

By GEORDIE KENNEDY

On Thursday nights, interested students will find Reynolds room 114 abuzz with lively discussion, creative ideas and film jargon of all kinds. The Montevallo Film Production Club, a relatively new organization on campus, has been growing quickly in both membership and creative output.

Co-presidents Ryan Ahrendt, a junior communication studies major, and Morgan Evans, a freshman in the mass communication department, are both hopeful for the club. “We’ve been quickly growing,” said Evans. This is evident in the meetings themselves with more and more ambitious short filmmakers turning out every week.

According to the club leadership, the artists involved are in-

tensely passionate and determined regarding their craft. The club members are more than willing to put in the time commitment required for a film of any kind. “We’re really dedicated,” said Evans. “Even if it takes seven days a week or goes to three in the morning, we’ll do it.”

Since its inception in September of last year, the organization’s purpose has been to “collaborate with students who can come together to create original film,” said Ahrendt. This purpose has culminated in the club’s most recent work, a horror thriller film entitled, “It’s Just a Game.”

This film, projected to be completed toward the end of the month, is a creatively collaborative work on the part of all members of the club. The onscreen talent will be provided by organization

members as well. As far as goals are concerned, Ahrendt and Evans hope to take the films to competition. “We really want to be able to submit them to the Sidewalk Film Festival,” said Ahrendt, a Birmingham based annual event in August. The club also maintains its aim for the prestigious Sundance Film Festival. “This club flourishes off of Montevallo’s Creativity,” said Evans, and this is precisely what the Film Production Club is searching for in prospective members. The presidents are searching for dedicated, flexible students with a passion for film. Meetings are held in Reynolds 114 on Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. The club can be contacted via Facebook and is always open to new members.



Jasmyne Ray | The Alabamian
(Center left) Devery Patterson has been trying to start a Phi Beta Sigma chapter on campus with the support of Zeta Phi Beta sisters like Gabrielle Pringle (center right).

UM student hopes to begin Phi Beta Sigma chapter

By JASMYNE RAY

There will soon be another addition to the five National Panhellenic Council (NPHC) greek organizations on campus. Devery Patterson, a senior sociology major, has plans to start a Phi Beta Sigma colony on campus. Patterson is currently the only Sigma on campus having “crossed”, or joined, the organization through an alumni chapter in the Spring of 2015.

“I wanted to start a chapter here because it was an opportunity to increase our NPHC organizations,” said Patterson. “Also it was the opportunity to not only grow my organization, but a way to show the great works of Sigma.”

In order to begin a new NPHC organization on campus, a student first has to go through the Campus Life Advisory Committee (CLAC). The CLAC gets together at the beginning of every year to determine if there are enough students on campus for a new organization to be needed.

If there are, the NPHC advisor, Cedric Norman, “will present applications from interested groups to the NPHC council for approval.” If it’s approved by the NPHC council, the advisor contacts “local alumni representatives of the interested NPHC group to determine if alumni support is available.”

If it is, the interested NPHC group has to submit a request to the CLAC and present information about their organization

per the criteria and guidelines for forming an organization or club. From there the CLAC will approve or deny their request. Since trying to start a chapter, Patterson has had help from the ladies of Zeta Phi Beta, a fellow NPHC organization. “Even though we are constitutionally bound, we are still separate organizations,” said Briana Brown, president of Zeta Phi Beta. “We never are involved with each other’s MIP [membership intake process] or chartering process nor do we get involved with chapter business. Cedric Norman, the assistant director of student life, said the new organization is a good thing and is hopeful for its success. “Hopefully we can have enough young men to support a colony and ultimately have it turn into a chapter.” Norman said. “I think it’s good for Greek life because it gives guys more options as far as fraternities and Phi Beta Sigma is especially attractive because of how diverse they are nationally.” Patterson is also hopeful for not only Phi Beta Sigma’s success, but the growth of NPHC’s as a whole. “We are a small group compared to the other organizations on campus, but I think that we do well with what we have.” Patterson said. “Every year or even semester we do look forward to growth and since I’ve been a member, I can honestly say I have seen that growth.”

Calendar of Events

Upcoming

Thursday, Feb. 25	1:00 p.m. Women's lacrosse vs. Truett-McConnell Track and Field Stadium
9:00 p.m. Show: Ruckzuck/Nuclear Milwaukee Eclipse Coffee and Books	1:30 p.m. Baseball vs. Francis Marion Kermit A. Johnson Baseball field
Saturday, Feb. 27	Sunday, March 6
1:00 p.m. Softball vs. Flagler Softball Field	1:00 p.m. Baseball vs. Francis Marion Kermit A. Johnson Baseball field
1:00 p.m. Women's Lacrosse vs. Shorter Track and Field Stadium	Monday, March 7
Tuesday, March 1	AKL These Hands Don't Hurt: start Outside Caf
8:00 p.m. Show: Terror Pigeon/Meth Dad Eclipse Coffee and Books	Tuesday, March 8
Wednesday, March 2	5:30 p.m. SGA Mandatory Election Meeting Farmer Hall Meeting Room
2:00 p.m. Baseball vs. Tuskegee Kermit A. Johnson Field	7:00 p.m. UPC Drive-In Movie SAC Parking Lot
7:00 p.m. Read Across U.M. (Fun and Games in Literature) Hill House	Wednesday, March 9
Friday, March 4	4:00 p.m. Softball vs. North Alabama Softball Stadium
4:00 p.m. Secular Student Alliance presents Chuck Miller Comer Auditorium	5:00 p.m. Baseball vs. Ala-Huntsville Kermit A. Johnson Baseball Field
5:00 p.m. SGA Election Packets Due Student Life Office	Thursday, March 10
7:00 p.m. Show: Phil Dudley Band/William Yarbough Eclipse Coffee and Book	AKL These Hands Don't Hurt: end Outside Caf
Saturday, March 5	2:00 p.m. Chi-O Kickoff UM Intramural Fields
10:00 a.m. Women's Tennis vs. Francis-Marion Tennis Court Complex	6:30 p.m. Show: Quick Chickens Eclipse Coffee and Books

Ongoing

Mondays	Wednesdays
5:00 p.m. Water Aerobics SAC Pool	11:00 a.m. Cafe Escape Baptist Campus Ministry
5:00 p.m. Zumba Bibb Graves Dance Studio	5:00 p.m. Water Aerobics SAC Pool
6:00 p.m. Spectrum Weekly Meeting Farmer Hall Meeting Room	5:00 p.m. Zumba Bibb Graves Dance Studio
7:00 p.m. Kickboxing Bibb Graves Dance Studio	7:00 p.m. Kickboxing Bibb Graves Dance Studio
7:00 p.m. Korean Culture Club meeting Reynolds 226	7:30 p.m. Chess Club of Montevallo Harman 232
8:30 p.m. University of Montevallo Anime Club meeting Harman 120	8:00 p.m. Whovian Society Meeting Comer 205
Tuesdays	Thursdays
5:00 p.m. Yoga Bibb Graves Dance Studio	5:00 p.m. Yoga Bibb Graves Dance Studio
5:00 p.m. The Alabamian Weekly Meetings Student Publications Office	7:00 p.m. Montevallo Cosplay Association Comer 308
7:30 p.m. Montevallo Organization of Gaming Harman 221, 225, 226, 229, 232	7:30 p.m. Montevallo Organization of Gaming Harman 221, 225, 226, 229, 232
8:00 p.m. Resonate worship service Baptist Campus Ministry	Fridays
	5:00 p.m. Montage Weekly Meetings Student Publication Office